

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 2244

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: AD HOC GROUP CHAIRMAN'S
WEEKLY REPORT 4-10 MARCH

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AD HOC GROUP CHAIRMAN'S WEEKLY REPORT
FOR 4-10 MARCH AS APPROVED BY AHG MARCH 13:

BEGIN TEXT:

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 67 OF C-M(73)83 (FINAL), THE
FOLLOWING REPORT IS SUBMITTED, FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH
THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC GROUP, AS THE REPORT OF
THE CHAIRMAN (NORWAY) ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE AD HOC
GROUP FOR THE WEEK ENDING 10TH MARCH, 1974.

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2. THE GROUP APPROVED THE THIRD PRESENTATION ON STABILIZING MEASURES WHICH WAS DELIVERED IN PLENARY SESSION ON 7TH MARCH BY THE BELGIAN REPRESENTATIVE. IT ELICITED "PROCEDURAL COMMENTS" BY THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE, WHO CONSIDERED THAT OF THE FOUR MEASURES MENTIONED, ONLY THE FIRST WAS AT ALL RELATED TO THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS.

3. THE GROUP DECIDED THAT THE FOLLOWING THEMES WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE NEXT PLENARY SESSIONS:

14 MARCH: VERIFICATION AND NON-CIRCUMVENTION (TO BE DELIVERED BY LUXEMBOURG);

21 MARCH: US AND SOVIET GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS;

28 MARCH : STABILIZING MEASURES (MAINLY REVIEW OF THE FOUR MEASURES ALREADY TABLED);

4 APRIL: COMMON CEILING;

10 APRIL: GENERAL SUMMING-UP, AND POSSIBLY, PRESENTATION OF ISSUES WHICH THE EAST MIGHT CONSIDER DURING THE RECESS.

4. INFORMAL SESSIONS WITH EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES CONTINUE AT THE RATE OF TWO PER WEEK. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS CONTINUED ACTIVELY AND ARGUMENTS WERE PURSUED VIGOROUSLY BY BOTH SIDES. A CERTAIN HARDENING OF THE EASTERN POSITION WITH REGARD TO COMMON CEILING WAS NOTED. EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES CRITICIZED IN PARTICULAR THE ALLIED PHASE ONE REDUCTION PROPOSAL AS BEING WHOLLY INEQUITABLE AND THEY INSISTED ON PARTICIPATION IN THE REDUCTION OF ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS FROM THE OUTSET. THEY STRONGLY OPPOSED ALLIED CLARIFICATIONS ABOUT PHASE TWO AS CONSTITUTING ONLY A PROMISE TO START NEGOTIATIONS WHILE GIVING NO COMMITMENT AS TO WHERE AND HOW MUCH INDIVIDUAL WEST EUROPEAN STATES WOULD REDUCE THEIR FORCES. THE EAST INSISTED ALSO ON A "REVISED SYMBOLIC REDUCTION PROPOSAL" WHICH COULD AMOUNT TO AS LITTLE AS ONE PERCENT OF FORCES ON EACH SIDE. IT WAS NOTED INTER ALIA, THAT THIS SYMBOLIC REDUCTION PROPOSAL FORESAW NO NATIONAL CEILINGS. END TEXT. HUMES

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